

DRAFT

NER-AMTA General Membership Meeting

Zoom

Saturday, April 17, 2021

President Adrienne Flight called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Adrienne welcomed and thanked attendees for being here today. She took time to honor the loss and trauma we continue to experience related to COVID-19, racial inequities, and gun violence. As a region we are holding space for these traumas and remain committed to doing our part. Adrienne acknowledged that we are meeting again on Zoom once again which is a real reminder of all of the ongoing difficulties related to the pandemic.

Adrienne introduced Adonia Calhoun Coates, Chief Executive Officer of AMTA. Adonia thanked the AMTA Board and all attendees. She has been the CEO for 6 months now and commended the AMTA Board, the national staff, and dedicated volunteers who kept the association thriving in the absence of a CEO. Adonia missed the opportunity for face-to-face interaction since the national AMTA conference in November was virtual. There is a lot happening with the AMTA, and there is still much to do. Meaningful transformation takes time. The road ahead will require hard work, but Adonia is confident that our changes will have a positive impact. She thanked the NER for the opportunity to connect today.

Adrienne reminded attendees that the slate is open for voting. An email came from newsletter@musictherapynewengland.org. Voting closes today at 10:30 a.m.

Adrienne pointed out that agenda items with asterisks indicate items directly related to our strategic plan which Adrienne will discuss later in the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Jen Sokira made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 AMTA National Conference general membership meeting. Channing Shippen seconded the motion. With no discussion and a vote of approval, the motion passed, and the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. Treasurer's Report

Adrienne thanked Bekah DiMieri for her six years of service as treasurer. Bekah shared that it has been an absolute pleasure to serve. Bekah gave the following report of the NER finances:

Checking: \$11,117.22

Savings: \$52,358.30

Student Account: 2,033.79

Throughout the health crisis, we have been fiscally responsible while supporting our members. Adrienne recognized the students and Kayla Daly for doing a wonderful job.

DRAFT

4. Strategic Plan

Adrienne presented the NER's current strategic plan:

Membership

1. The NER will continue to address improved engagement with members and the music therapy community by:
 - a. More fully integrating and utilizing the website, social media platforms, and email as a means of communicating with members and related communities.
 - b. Encouraging greater interest in service to the profession through board, committee, and task force membership.
2. The NER will continue to actively increase membership on both the professional and student levels.
3. The NER will more fully implement its member support programs, including conference scholarship, dues assistance, and educational opportunities.

Financial

1. The NER will continue to be financially solvent.
 1. The NER will continue fundraising efforts.
 2. To continue to hold financially responsible regional conferences.
2. The NER will explore opportunities to receive community/foundation/organizational grants that promote the work of the NER
 1. The NER will explore opportunities to offer clinical grants to members for program development and research.

Professional Issues

1. The NER will support state task force efforts in each of its representative states.
2. The NER will provide leadership and guidance in promoting diversity and inclusion, *including board membership.*
3. The NER will develop a plan to provide disaster recovery check-in and practical support for music therapists who have been impacted by natural or human-made disasters.

5. Membership*

Mark Fuller, NER representative to the AMTA membership committee, presented the following report:

2021 Goal Summary

1. The NER continues to improve and address engagement with its members and the music therapy community through various online platforms such as: NER website, social media, and email to engage with members and its related communities.
2. The NER will continue to actively increase membership on both the professional and student levels by collaborating and being present at NER events for music therapists.
3. The NER will continue to improve and expand its member support programs such as conference scholarship, dues assistance, and educational opportunities.

DRAFT

AMTA Updates

1. NEW membership benefit (Over 30 pre-approved CMTE credits) are now included via e-courses in the AMTA membership.
 - a. pdf [E-course Research Review Series Flyer.pdf](#)
2. Welcome to the Profession Packets for coupons off your first 3 years of Professional expenses
 - a. [Intern Packet Request Form | Welcome to the Profession Intern Packets](#)
 - b. Link: <https://www.musictherapy.org/careers/packets/>
3. Paying Professional membership in installments
 - a. [Paying AMTA Membership in Installments | Paying Membership in Installments](#)
 - b. Link: https://www.musictherapy.org/members/paying_amta_membership_in_installments/
4. Other Support options for paying for membership
 - a. [Membership Support Options | Membership in AMTA](#)
 - b. Link: https://www.musictherapy.org/about/membership_support_options/
5. Scholarships and grants for AMTA members
 - a. [Scholarships for Students, Interns, and Professionals | Scholarship Opportunities for AMTA Members](#)
 - b. Link: <https://www.musictherapy.org/careers/scholars/>

NER Updates

1. 7 PIF membership support scholarships were provided for the 2021 AMTA membership cycle.
 - a. \$1,225 out of \$1,500 utilized for PIF scholarships
2. Plan to continue the PIF initiative for 2022 with applications opening in this fall, details to come on NER social media platforms.
3. Conference Support was not initiated this year, due no formal conference being held.
4. We awarded a free year of AMTA membership to one student this year which was funded by AMTA.
5. Currently have 141 AMTA members within the first quarter of 2021 which is the same this time last year.

Next Initiatives

1. Membership will connect with the DEI standing committee to hear how to improve inclusivity and access to AMTA membership within the NER community.
2. The membership committee will review strengths and challenges of this PIF cycle to advance future PIF initiatives.

6. DEI

Adrienne introduced DEI Committee Chair Shannon Kiley. The DEI Committee has created a survey to formulate goals for the region. During this past year, they hosted a series of community music gatherings for peer-to-peer support including lyric analysis around topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. They created a list of allyship resources available on the NER website. There is also a DEI tab on the NER website which includes resources for further education. Please contact the DEI Committee with feedback regarding your needs

DRAFT

along with any thoughts, questions, comments. Shannon thanked Mark Fuller and Jocelyn Khoo for their work on this committee.

7. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Update*

Adrienne introduced Diana Cortés, president of NER-AMTAS and Kayla Daly, SAAB representative. Kayla recognized the students for their amazing work.

Diana reported that the NER-AMTAS elections will be later today. The traditional Passages conference was going to be in October, but there were not enough presentation proposal submissions. They decided to do two things instead: present a series of guest speakers (included 4 guest lecturers and an interdisciplinary panel related to neurological disorders) and hold a mini-Passages weekend in March (included 5 presenters, and the recordings are available on the NER-AMTAS YouTube channel). They were able to provide presenters with honorariums ranging from \$30 – \$75 to compensate for their time and expertise. Some of the presenters donated their time. A total of \$190 was spent for the honorariums. There were nine \$50 scholarships for memberships available, but none were awarded as there were no applicants. The NER is small enough that individual schools can be contacted. They started a project of reaching out to schools to meet with students about scholarship and opportunities.

Kayla welcomed the two new programs in the New England Region, Westfield State and University of Rhode Island. They are planning to hold a student board event to inform the new program students about opportunities for involvement.

8. Election Slate*

Adrienne welcomed Past President Judy Engel. Adrienne posted the link for voting in the chat. AMTA members are eligible to vote. Adrienne thanked the outgoing board members for their service. Congratulations and appreciation to the new Executive Board:

President: Brian Jantz

President-Elect: Wendy Krueger

Vice-President-Elect: Mary Reinsch

Treasurer: Kari O'Briant

Secretary: Cecilia Burns

Assembly Delegates: votes are still being taken

If there is a tie with the delegate seats, it will be decided by coin toss. Judy thanked the nominating committee: Bekah DiMieri, Jen Sokira, and Jocelyn Khoo. She also thanked Amanda Reopell, Branden Benguaich, Kate Lamoureux for disseminating voting information. Voting is important. It is how our voices will be heard on a national level. Please be an AMTA member, as this is how the number of delegate seats are determined, and please vote.

9. President's Award

Adrienne presented the 2020 President's Award to Judy Nguyen Engel. Many congratulations to Judy!!

DRAFT

10. Opportunities for Involvement*

Incoming President Brian Jantz talked about opportunities being directly related to our strategic plan. We are looking for ways for everyone to have a voice. Currently, we have an opening on the Financial Committee. We will be looking for Pay-It-Forward blind reviewers in late 2021 and conference scholarship reviewers for 2022. There is an opening for anyone interesting in joining the DEI Committee. E-mail at brianj@neramta.org or president@neramta.org if you have questions or would like to be involved in the region.

11. AMTA State of the Association

Heather Wagner, Regional President's Representative, presented the AMTA update for the NER region.

Conference

- The AMTA held its first fully virtual conference in 2020. Presentations are still available for viewing until May 15, 2021. You can also purchase sessions if you did not attend.
- The AMTA is pivoting to another online conference in 2021. It is best to hold a fully online conference for another year. The call for 2021 presentations is now open. Please see the AMTA website and social media platforms for more details.

DEI

- AMTA received its first DEI education because of a 2019 board motion to engage a DEI consultant with Nicole Robinson. Nicole has continued to support the AMTA Board and leadership on an advisory basis upon request.
- The AMTA DEI Committee hosted a townhall meeting on February 11. Over 200 individuals participated.
- The Board of Directors is working with the AMTA DEI Committee and others to develop DEI guiding principles. This is intended to be a living statement that changes as our understanding grows. AMTA is researching consultants for discussions and education around Ableism.
- There are special focus issues of the Journal of Music Therapy and Music Therapy Perspectives focusing on social justice and equity in music therapy. The AMTA 2021 conference theme centers around trauma-informed care, social justice, and resilience. AMTA is continuing to explore ways to hear from all audiences and increase engagement, participation, and volunteerism.

Strategic Planning

- The board had an orientation meeting with a Strategy Consultant to help prepare the board for prioritizing and addressing the work ahead of the association. AMTA vetted three potential consultants for priority-setting strategic planning work.
- Strategic planning will begin in the coming weeks and engage members, non-members, and stakeholders.

Community Engagement

- The newest initiative was a series for members launched in February called "Community Conversations." There is time for open discussion for community conversations. The

DRAFT

first two conversations focused on COVID-19 and provided answers submitted from the music therapy community.

- The COVID-19 Task Force is working on multiple efforts: community surveys, faculty forum, APAC and AIAC collaboration to support students, grand rounds series, and more.
- Beginning in April, the APAC is offering a workshop on the new University Affiliated Internships Guidelines with three date options to participate.
- Commission on the Education and Clinical Training of 21st Century Music Therapists is having listening sessions in April for students, clinicians, educators, and affinity groups.

Listening Engagement: Listening and Learning

- Integrative Policies and Procedures Assembly Work Group is reviewing issues regarding sexual harassment and exploring ways to provide education and support the safety of our students and all music therapists.
- AMTA leadership working to establish channels to listen more, offer more transparency, and better inform the community on what is happening in the AMTA.

New Member Benefit from AMTA

- AMTA e-course services: Members have access to over 50 pre-approved CMTE credits. New courses will be added as additional journals are published.

Partner Relations

- AMTA partnership with Bristol Myers Squibb to launch MS in Harmony with Ben Platt and sister-in-law Courtney Platt to support people living with MS with mind-body harmony. Jen Sokira has been part of this project.
- Sound Health Network, a collaboration between the NIH, NEA and University of California San Francisco, launched earlier this year.

Government Relations

- AMTA participated in the National Arts Action Summit April 5-9 and Arts Advocacy Week April 12-16 on the Hill.
- AMTA and CBMT continue to collaborate with State Task Forces across the country implementing the State Recognition Operational Plan. Legislation is being introduced in 14 states this year with several states offering virtual advocacy trainings and virtual Hill visits with legislators.
- Interactive map features detailing state advocacy information are available on the Policy and Advocacy section of the AMTA website. State-by-state map features include information about State Task Force activities along with the recognition status of each state.

Additional Items

- AMTA journals have officially gone green, but members can opt-in to continue to receive printed journals.
- AMTA received three applications for the recently vacated board historian position. Per the AMTA bylaws, this appointed position serves at the pleasure of the president and

DRAFT

board of directors. AMTA engaged in this new approach to encourage transparency, diversity, equity, and inclusiveness.

12. NER Day Updates*

Adrienne thanked Channing Shippen and Kathlynn Sell for everything they did to put today together. Thank you to Channing for everything she has done, especially navigating these strange times. Channing expressed gratitude for the last four years serving as Vice President-Elect and Vice President.

Kathlynn reported that after the business meeting, we will be moving on to the networking event. There are six breakout rooms that will all be moderated by NER Board Members and an AMTA Board member. We are looking forward to the events later today.

Kathlynn talked about the 2022 conference. We will be in Stoweflake Resort in Stowe, Vermont which was originally scheduled for 2020. Thank you so much to Nancy for all of her tireless negotiations.

The Commission on the Education and the Clinical Training of the 21st Century Music Therapists is having a presentation and listening session over Zoom. Registration is still open if you would like to attend.

Thank you for attending NER Day!

13. Student Scholarships*

NER gives out awards for returning students and for new professionals. Representatives from each school presented awards at this time.

Lisa Summer presented the following awards for Anna Maria College:

- ***Student:*** Toby Rodriguez
- ***Professional:*** Delia Regan

Brian Jantz presented the following awards for Berklee College of Music:

- ***Student:*** Carey Lymm
- ***Professional:*** Tiana Dick

Caryl Beth Thomas presented the following awards for Leslie University:

- ***Student:*** Kitty Coolidge
- ***Professional:*** Josh Min

Tim Honig presented the following award for Westfield State University:

- ***Student:*** Brady Maroni

Nicole O'Malley presented the following award for University of Rhode Island:

- ***Student:*** Samuel Giunta

DRAFT

14. In Memoriam

Adrienne acknowledged that there are not adequate words to express all of the losses we have experienced. We took a moment to honor our losses, the ways they have impacted us, our clinical work, and our families.

Adrienne invited attendees to unmute themselves and say a name or type a name in the chat, having time to hold space for the lives that have been lost.

15. Election

There is still time to get your vote in as Judy is continuing to tally votes.

16. Good and Welfare

- Nicole O'Malley would like to congratulate every Task Force in New England. Every single state in the region has activity happening.
- Meredith Pizzi acknowledged Tim and Nicole for the new academic programs in our region and expressed gratitude to them and their teams as creating new programs is so much work. Congratulations! This is a tremendous opportunity for students both in our region and students coming from other regions to study in New England.
- Brian sent congratulations to Adrienne and thank you for her incredible leadership during the past two very challenging years. Many attendees provided congratulations and gratitude to Adrienne in the Zoom chat.

17. Adjournment

Meredith Pizzi entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Brian Jantz seconded the motion. With no discussion and a vote, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Burns, MMT, MT-BC
Secretary, NER-AMTA